also been conducted in June, 1996 by the ODA and Govt. of India jointly and they have expressed satisfaction about the progress of the Project.

(9) **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**

Coverage of Districts

The Project is not district based. It is being implemented 601 blocks of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh with assistance from World Bank.

District Selection Criteria

All the tribal blocks and rural blocks having highest percentage of SC/ST population.

Evaluation of the Project

As per the agreement with the World Bank, there is a provision of mid-term and final evaluation of the project. No other specific committee has been constituted for the evaluation of the Project. The mid-term evaluation of the Project in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa is already in progress and the evaluation report is expected by the end of this year.

(10) **Assistance to 47 ICDS Projects in Tamil Nadu**

Coverage of Districts

3 districts of Nilgiris, Puddukottai and Chengalpattu-MGR in Tamil Nadu with Swedesh assistance.

District Selection Criteria

The districts were identified keeping in view the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the disadvantaged areas of the State.

Evaluation of the Project

Joint reviews by the Govt. of Sweden and Govt. of India have highlighted a significant impact in improving nutritional and health status of the vulnerable groups comprising children upto 6 years of age, adolescent girls, pregnent women and nursing mothers.

Pollution of Rivers

*157. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long stretches of thirteen rivers including Yamuna, Sutlej, Sabarmati, Godavari, Krishna, Chambal, Gomti—are unfit for human consumption as reported in 'Pioneer' of 20th January, 1995;

(b) whether Government are throwing hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees down the drain in the name of cleaning the rivers; and

(c) whether prevention would not be better than cure, and whether the best course would not be to prevent the pollution of rivers by requiring all towns and industries to set up adequate waste treatment plants before releasing it into the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), stretches of various rivers were found polluted. A statement containing stretchwise details of existing and desired class of river water including the possible sources of pollution is laid on the table of the House. (*See on next*).

(b) and (c) The Government has launched the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in July 1995 for the pollution abatement of the polluted stretches. Under the plan, the sewage generated in the identified towns shall be intercepted, diverted and treated before discharge into the river besides taking up works of low cost sanitation, improved wood based crematoria, river front development and solid waste disposal. The industrial pollution caused to the river waters is controlled by enforcement of environment laws.

Long-Term Action Plan for Agricultural Sector

*158. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a long-term action plan for agricultural sector; and